MINUTES

OF THE

THIRD ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

BETHESDA CHURCH,

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, ALA.,

SEPTEMBER 2d, 3d and 4th, 1884.

OFFICERS:

H. C. TAUL	MODERATOR	Montgomery, Ala.
J. I. LAMAR	CLERK	Deatsville, Ala.
J. H. DICKSON	TREASURER	Pine Level, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
BARRETT & CO., PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
1884.

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NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

B. A. JACKSON	Ramer	Alabama.
J. W. ORME	Pugh,	"
H. C. TAUL	Montgomery,	"
J. L. SAMPEY	Ramer,	"
J. J. CLOUD	Wetumpka,	"
F. C. WAITE	Montgomery,	"

LICENTIATES.

J. C. MCLENDON	Ramer	Alabama.
J. R. SAMPEY	Ramer	"

ASSOCIATION DISTRICTS.

FIRST DISTRICT.—Wetumpka, Deatsville, Mt. Hebron, Bethany, Unity, Friendship.

SECOND DISTRICT.—Pine Level, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Liberty, Salem, Elim.

THIRD DISTRICT.—First Montgomery, Adam Street, Ramer, Bethesda, Philadelphia.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association called to order by Moderator.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
5. Visiting brethren invited to seats.
6. Receive petitions from churches desiring membership.
7. Appoint committee to report during session—
   - On Religious Exercises,
   - On Finance and Auditing,
   - On Documents and Requests.
   - On Nominations.
8. Call for Correspondence.
9. Read Rules of Order.
10. Hear Reports from Committees and Treasurer.
11. Return Correspondence.
12. Appoint Committee to report next meeting—
    - On Home and State Missions,
    - On Foreign Missions,
    - On Sabbath Schools,
    - On Temperance,
    - On Education,
    - On Bible and Colportage,
    - On Indigent Ministers.
13. Hear Miscellaneous Business.
14. Call Roll and erase absentees.
15. Arrange for printing minutes.
16. Correct minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES.

The Third Annual Session of the Montgomery Baptist Association was held with Bethesda Church, Montgomery county, Ala., commencing Tuesday, September 2d, 1884, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Elder H. C. Taul, former Moderator, called the body to order.

Prayer by Elder B. A. Jackson.

Appointed Brethren E. J. Harris, M. A. Pyron, W. G. Worrell, committee on credentials, to whom were referred letters from the churches.

The principal and alternate appointed to preach the introductory sermon being absent, by invitation of the body, Dr. W. C. Cleveland performed the duty most acceptably. Text: 1st Timothy, v chap., part of 4th verse; theme, "Show piety at home."

Took a recess for refreshments.

Met and resumed business.

Prayer by Elder J. L. Sampey.

Committee on Credentials reported delegates from the churches, as follows:

First Montgomery—H. L. Yelverton, A. P. Wilson, W. T. Hatchett, W. Gamble, Misses Mattie Yelverton, A. J. Dennis.
Adam Street, Montgomery—H. C. Taul, F. C. Waite, A. E. Coupee, L. Nickel, G. Montgomery, E. Hill, Miss M. L. Taul.
Bethesda—*J. C. McLendon*, J. T. Boyd, D. W. Fuller.
Pine Level—J. H. Dickson, J. D. Wright, E. J. Harris.
Mt. Lebanon—J. W. Orme, G. G. Long, M. D. Eiland.
Ramer—B. A. Jackson, J. L. Sampey, J. R. McLendon.
Elim—Not represented.
Salem—A. B. Brassel.
Bethany—Letter; no delegate.
Wetumpka—J. J. Cloud.
Deatsville—J. I. Lamar, M A. Pyron.
Mt. Hebron—R. B. James.
Union—Letter; no delegates.
Sand Tuck—Letter; no delegate.
Unity—W. G. Worrell.
Friendship—Not represented.
Liberty—Not represented.
Mt. Zion—J. S. Smith, F. J. Dismukes, J. Mills.
Philadelphia—G. T. Edwards.

The Association proceeded to elect officers, Brethren T. M. Bailey and W. T. Hatchett acting tellers—resulting in the choice of Elder H. C. Taul, Moderator, Brethren J. I. Lamar, Clerk, and J. H. Dickson, Treasurer.

Visiting brethren were invited to seats. Drs. T. M. Bailey, Secretary of State Mission Board, W. C. Cleveland, Chairman of Board of Ministerial Education, G. A. Nunnallee, representing Home Mission Board, President J. T. Murphee, of Howard College and Prof. L. D. Inskeep, of Judson Institute, were cordially received.

Mt. Zion Church, Montgomery county, recently organized, was received into membership.

Philadelphia Church, of the Alabama Association, was received into membership and the Clerk instructed to obtain a letter of dismission for her from said Association.

Appointed the following committees:

On Religious Exercises—Pastor and Deacons of Bethesda Church, with Brethren J. D. Wright, A. P. Wilson.

On Finance and Auditing—E. J. Harris, W. G. Worrell, A. E. Coupee.

On Documents and Requests—J. J. Cloud, L. Nickel, J. C. McLendon.

On Nominations—J. H. Dickson, G. Montgomery, J. W. Orme.

Select Place of Holding Next Meeting—B. A. Jackson, W. L. Yelverton, M. A. Pyron.

Called for correspondence and received from—

Salem Association—J. D. McLendon, F. M. Sullivan, F. A. Curtis.

Package of Minutes from Alabama State Convention.

The hour of 10 o'clock to-morrow morning was made special order to consider the subject of missions.

The subject of education to be considered at 2 o'clock, p. m. to-morrow.

In absence of chairman on Home and State Missions, Elder J. L. Sampey was appointed to prepare a report for this session.

Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools read and after able speeches by a number of brethren, was amended and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee beg to submit the following report:

The number of Schools reported we find only 7; number of Teachers, 69; number of Scholars, 660; number received from Sabbath School into the Church, 52.

While a majority of the churches report no school at all, others we are glad to say are doing a noble work for God and their fellow-man through the hallowed influence of the Sabbath School.

And, whereas, the Bible is the only Book amongst all Books, that reveals man's fall from his high and holy state, his natural depravity, his enmity to God, the desperate wickedness of his heart, God's hatred to sin, and His infinite and only plan by which man can possibly be reinstated into the favor of a Merciful God;

And, whereas, the great object of the Sabbath School is to impart to all around a more perfect knowledge of Jesus' love, His wondrous plan to restore man to his former favor and affection with God, His precious promises, and his touching appeals to sinners of every grade;

Therefore, your committee most earnestly request the delegates of this Association on their return to their respective churches to bring the great need and worth of the Sabbath School prominently before their brethren, and if possible arouse the indifferent to a sense of duty, to the requirements of a Merciful God, and the great needs of perishing souls around them becoming better acquainted with Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life to those and those only who are believers.

We further recommend that Sabbath School Conventions be held in each district of this Association during the next year.

That the Sunday School Committee be instructed to arrange programme for the Conventions to be held in the different districts.

J. W. ORME, Chairman.

The following brethren were appointed a committee on *Bible and Colportage*—F. C. Waite, G. Long, J. T. Boyd.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock, a. m. to-morrow.

Prayer by Bro. J. T. Murphee.

Dr. G. A. Nunallee preached at night.

WEDNESDAY, September 3, 1884.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Bro. E. J. Harris.

Read the minutes of yesterday.

Treasurer's report read and referred to Committee on Finance and Auditing.

The following order, districting the Association, was adopted as follows:

First District—Wetumpka, Deatsville, Mt. Hebron, Bethany, Unity, Friendship.

Second District—Pine Level, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Liberty, Salem, Elim.

Third District—First Montgomery, Adam Street, Ramer, Bethesda, Philadelphia.

The delegates from the district entitled to the Association shall determine the place where the next Association shall meet.

Report of Committee on Temperance read and ably discussed by a number of brethren, was amended by resolution and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

It is with profound gratitude to our Heavenly Father, that your committee feel able to report, that never before in the history of our country has the cause of Temperance occupied the high prominence that it does at the present time. Its advocates no longer need to labor with arguments to prove that the use of intoxicants are not only useless, but injurious, sapping the very foundation of all good and bringing degradation and bankruptcy upon our people. The question of legal interference has been settled and now no longer doubted, and we hail with gladness the dawn, upon the great Temperance cause, of an era such as never opened up before. The success that has attended the efforts to remove the traffic in ardent spirits from our midst is of the most gratifying character.

In this as in other great enterprises the faithful and persistent labors of small communities in getting laws passed by State legislation prohibiting the traffic in their localities, has enabled whole counties and States to drive it out and quiet and prosperity reigns where revelings and disorder prevailed. And now that our law-makers are disposed to aid in the matter, we believe it to be the duty of every community, by petition to the legislature, to have an act passed prohibiting the sale of liquors in their midst. The churches too should take high ground. Let them see to it that Bible teaching on this subject be rigidly enforced, and as suggested in the report on Temperance adopted by the last session of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, "That we let it be clearly understood that a Baptist church is no home for a drunkard or a liquor vendor."

Great good has been accomplished. Much remains to be done. The field is inviting. The masses are awake to the great movement. Let all Christians unite and by earnest prayer, faithful labor and consistent example, the glorious day of deliverance will dawn upon us.

We would most earnestly impress upon pastors and indeed all ministers in the bounds of this Association the duty that devolves upon them that they "should cry aloud and spare not, and when they preach of righteousness and judgment to come," they should also "reason of Temperance."

As a denomination, your committee are decidedly of the opinion that we should not be satisfied short of entire and absolute prohibition, and that we should earnestly labor for the accomplishment of that great end.

Resolved, That this Association will not fellowship any church that recognizes or permits the traffic in intoxicating liquors among its members.

J. I. LAMAR, Chairman.

Dr. Nunallee presented the claims of Dr. Tucker's work, "The old Theology Reinstated."

The hour for special order having arrived, the reports on Home and State, and Foreign Missions were read, and after due consideration were adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON HOME AND STATE MISSIONS.

A few years ago the Baptists of Alabama had one man trying to perform the impossible work of being an Evangelist for the entire State and it was very difficult to pay his salary, in fact a few churches had to pledge at the Convention to pay the salary. What a change has taken place, now there are seventy men employed by the State Board and it is easier to raise nine thousand dollars now for the work than it was to raise one thousand then. There is progress along the lines, but much remains to be done. There are many places that need missionaries. The Board has accomplished a great work in our own Association. The pastor assisted by a State Evangelist at Adams Street church in the city of Montgomery has succeeded in making that church self-sustaining, and instead of being a beneficiary that church will hereafter assist in carrying the gospel to other points.

The Home Board is also on rising ground. It had 144 missionaries employed during the past year. This board is operating in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and the Indian Territory. The board has inaugurated a plan to raise money to assist weak churches in building houses of worship. There are places where we have failed because we have no houses for our people to worship in. This work is meeting with some success and demands our hearty co-operation.

JAMES L. SAMPEY.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The spirit of Missions is steadily advancing, and taking a firmer hold upon the hearts of Southern Baptists, than in all the history of the past. The annual contributions to the different Boards of the Convention, establish this assertion. From the Treasurer's report at Baltimore, there is a gain over the preceding year of $23,561.16. The receipts of the last Convention for foreign missions exclusively, show the home contributions to be $80,465.87. This is over 41½ per cent gain. If a like gain can be made the present year, the next report at Augusta will show the handsome sum of over $113,859.20. The Board is out of debt, and had a balance in hand of $9,566.36, after all disbursements. But we call attention to one feature in this statement which might mislead some. It is this: Dr. Yates, of China, is authorized by the Board to draw at any minute on the treasurer for $6,000 for a mission house in Ching Kiang. This leaves a balance of $3,566.36.

Such a representation is cheering to renewed souls. It is not only a source of gratification, but profound joy. We are making progress. This has been long desired. It is greatly needed. Christians have prayed earnestly for it, and there has been indefatigable toil on their part to bring about the present results.

Eleven new missionaries have been added to the list. viz; Miss Emma Young, of Missouri, and Miss Mattie M. Roberts, of Kentucky, sailed for China last December, the former to Canton, the latter to Tung Chaw. Bro. W. S. Walker, our missionary to Shanghai, married Miss Lilian Ellen Mateer, of Tung Chaw, and when last heard from he and his wife were in this country recruiting his failing health. Bro. Francis M. Myrers, of Kentucky, and Charles E. Smith and Mrs. Smith, of Arkansas, for Africa. Frederick C. Hickson and Mrs. Hickson, of South Carolina, Elijah E. Davault, of Tennessee, and James M. Joiner, of Louisiana, for China. Mrs. C. W. Pruitt, of Tung Chaw, has been baptized, which completes the number above mentioned. The Secretary says: "In no year since the organization of the Convention, have so many or more promising missionaries been enrolled by this Board." The past year has been blessed with an increase of laborers for Christ, and perhaps never a better qualified host have gone forth to extend the Redeemer's kingdom in foreign lands.

The following is a summary of the Foreign Mission work: Number of missionaries, native and foreign, 95; increase of membership, 175; pupils in day and Sunday schools, 684; number of church members, 1,141; contributions on the fields, $1,077; nearly one dollar a piece.

The Lord is blessing the work that is being done for the salvation of lost sinners in China, Italy, Africa, Brazil and Mexico. There have been some precious revivals. At Lagos there was said to be one hundred conversions, and twenty-five added to our denomination by baptism. O the value of one soul! "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." What a stimulus to Christians!

The Southern Baptist Convention asks the churches to contribute the present year $100,000. Our State Board endorses the request. We recommend—

First, That the Association accept its proportional part and endeavor to raise it during the year.

Second, That all collections for this purpose be forwarded through the State Board.

B. A. JACKSON, Chairman.

Appointed J. H. Dixon, W. Gamble, G. T. Edwards a committee to apportion amount asked for in report on missions from the churches.

The following amounts were pledged by churches to aid Rutledge church to build a house of worship, to be paid by December 1, 1884:

Ramer	$5 00	First Montgomery	$10 00
Pine Level	5 00	Bethesda	5 00
Mt. Lebanon	5 00	Mt. Zion	2 50
Adam Street	5 00		
Total			37 50

Adjourned till 2 o'clock. Prayer by Prof. Inskeep.

Met and resumed business. Prayer by J. H. Dickson.

Report on Education read and after discussion the following amounts were contributed for ministerial education in Howard College:

Ramer Church	$10 00	G. A. Nunallee	$ 5 00
Pine Level	20 00	G. G. Long	5 00
Adam Street	10 00	W. R. Waller	5 00
Mt. Lebanon	10 00	Col. Murphee	5 00
Mt. Zion	5 00	J. C. McLendon	5 00
A. B. Braswell	5 00	Mrs. L. Ward	1 00
F. C. Waite	5 00	Mrs. Dr. Mullen, paid	2 00
L. Nickel	5 00	G. A. Nunallee, paid	5 00
J. B. Scott, paid	5 00	J. H. Dickson, paid	1 00
J. W. Orme, paid	1 00		
		Total	$110 00

The report was then adopted as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education hail with delight, the fact, that the Baptists throughout the State are manifesting more and more interest in the cause of education. We are glad to see that the Baptists, as a denomination, are keeping abreast with other denominations in their appreciation of the responsibilities which attach to every parent to do the utmost in equipping his child for the duties and demands of a useful life. The man or woman who seeks the highest good for their children must see to it that the restraints of morality have full sway in their discipline. Hence arises a necessity for Christian schools—denominational schools—and we think we have them in the Howard College for boys and the Judson Female Institute for girls.

On the subject of Ministerial Education we report that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Alabama State Convention at their last session and the following Board was appointed, viz: R. H. Sterrett, D. I. Purser, A. J. Waldrop, E. B. Teague, W. C. Cleveland, J. M. Frost, and J. I. Dill. This Board having given their permission, a "mess hall" for Theological students at Howard College will be established. The Convention having limited assistance to twelve dollars per month to each pupil, makes it necessary to practice economy. We attach hereto the following explanation of the work of the Board of Ministerial Education, as a conclusion of this report:

1. All who receive aid will be expected to board in the "mess hall" provided by this Board.
2. An attempt will be made to reduce board to $8 per month.
3. Each student will furnish bed clothing, pillows, towels and lights.
4. In no case can we do more than pay for books, college expenses and

board, and students will, as far as possible, provide college expenses and board, and return the books at the end of the session.

In order to the successful prosecution of this work the Board will need $1,200 on the first of October next, and $1,200 on the first of February, 1885.

The following express requirements on the part of the Convention are obligatory upon the Board: Each applicant must be recommended by his church, examined by this Board, and give his note, without interest, for the amount received, to be paid if at any time he should abandon the ministry.

Feeling the responsibility resting upon us in the conduct of this most important work, the Board earnestly appeals to the churches throughout the State in this crisis of ministerial education. May we not confidently appeal to the ladies to assist us in furnishing the rooms in the home of our young preachers?

All communications to this Board are to be addressed to R. H. Sterrett, President of the Board, Birmingham, Ala. All moneys must be sent to T. L. Hudgins, Treasurer, Birmingham, Ala.

A. E. COUPEE, Chairman.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

Committe on Documents and Requests report, Union and Sandtuck churches desire letters of dismission to join the Central Association.

The number of baptisms reported in the church letters is 133. Nine regular prayer meetings reported.

We regret to have to announce the death of Elder P. W. Spear, who departed this life 21st of last May. Adopted.

J. S. CLOUD, Chairman.

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

Resolved, That the churches of this Association are requested to put forth earnest efforts to raise for the different objects under the directions of the State Mission Board, a contribution equal to one dollar per member.

We further recommend that our pastors be requested to explain these different objects fostered by the State Board, and to lift collections for these objects at least once a month during the year.

J. H. DICKSON, Chairman.

Appointed Brethren B. A. Jackson, W. G. Warrell, J. D. Wright committee to prepare obituary of Elder P. W. Spear.

Report of committee on Bible and Colportage read and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE.

The value of the Bible and its wonderful influence in the world, both as a civilizing agency and as an educational power, aside from its wonderful saving efficacy in bringing sons and daughters unto God, can best be estimated by a comparison of those lands where the Bible has been widely circulated and the light of the "glorious gospel of the blessed God" has risen with healing in its wings, subduing the stronger passions of man and elevating the nobler impulses of his nature and bringing him into an attitude of a true worshipper of the only true and living God. With those lands where its light has never penetrated and to-day they are in the darkness of heathendom and superstition and in ignorance of the true God, they are bowing in stupid adoration to stocks of wood and stone. A nearer comparison can be made in our own land between those families where the Bible is their text book and man of their counsel, and that

family, which, Goliah like, cares for none of those things, or by that man whose life is hid with Christ in God, with that man who will not have the man Christ Jesus to rule over him. We therefore feel that circulating the Bible among the masses, is second to nothing but the preaching of the gospel, as an agency under God of hastening forward that glorious epoch when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our God and his Christ. We would therefore recommend that the work of Bible and Colportage be pushed forward in our midst until there shall not be a family or person within the bounds of this Association without a copy of the Bible.

We also recognize the value of the religious press in circulating religious literature both for the family and the Sabbath school, and we would urge the importance of every family taking at least one religious paper for the benefit of themselves and children.

We would also recommend that our Sunday schools avail themselves of the best helps they can procure for the study of the Scriptures.

We would recommend as among the best papers and helps and those worthy of support for the family, the ALABAMA BAPTIST, published at Selma, and the CHRISTIAN INDEX, published at Atlanta, Ga., and for the Sunday school, *Kind Words*, published at Macon, Ga. The *Young Reaper*, the *Baptist Teacher*, and the series of Sunday school quarterlies published by the American Baptist Publishing Society, Philadelphia.

We append for adoption the report of the Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, of work done in this department for the last Conventional year, also the action of the Convention with regard to the American Bap. Pub. Society, which we endorse and recommend that this Association give to it its sympathy and hearty co-operation.

F. C. WAITE, Chairman.

BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE WORK.

Progress has been made in this very interesting and hopeful department of labor. We have had twenty-six men engaged in this work during the last Conventional year. Their labors extended into forty-seven of our counties. They sold 8,732 books and pamphlets, valued at $2,864.51. They gave away to poor families and individuals destitute of the Scriptures, 100 Bibles and 804 Testaments; valued at $66.20.

For the furtherance of this work twenty permanent funds of $100 each have been raised in cash and pledges, by Sunday Schools, Churches and Associations. These funds are not spent, but are used as a capital with which to keep our Colporteurs well supplied with books. We hope that in Associations where "*Permanent Funds*" have not been raised, efforts will be made to do so this fall. We very much desire to raise $1,000 this year to enable us to extend the work.

The Bible Work of the American Baptist Publication Society was heartily endorsed by our Convention, and the State Board was instructed to raise money for its support. Since the commencement of our State work the Society has generously furnished us *gratuitously* with as many Bibles and Testaments as we needed for distribution. During the year ending March 31, 1884, it gave to Alabama Baptists 5,756 copies of the Scriptures, valued at $513.30. During the same time our churches gave to Bible Work $33.95.

Alabama Baptists are amply able to supply the destitution of the Scriptures in their own State, and to give generous help to the Society, to enable it to meet the wants of less favored States. We propose to raise this year $500 for this work. We hope to receive a collection from every Church for Bible Distribution.

Appointed the following committees, to report at the next session :

On Foreign Missions—J. J. Cloud, W. B. Warrell, M. A. Pyron.
On Home and State Missions—J. W. Orme, W. D. Eiland, J. C. McLendon.
On Sabbath Schools—F. C. Waite, W. B. Davidson, J. I. Lamar, J. H. Dickson.
On Temperance—J. L. Sampey, E. J. Harris, J. D. Wright.
On Education—J. H. Dickson, W. Gamble, J. S. Smith.
Bible and Colportage—B. A. Jackson, A. E. Coupee, G. G. Long.
On Indigent Ministers—A. P. Wilson, L. Nickel, R. B. James.
Executive Board—J. W. Orme, G. W. Thomas, W. G. Worrell.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow 9 o'clock, a. m.
Prayer by Elder F. C. Waite.
Preaching at night by Dr. T. M. Bailey.

THURSDAY, September 4, 1884.

Association met. Prayer by Elder J. J. Cloud.

Union and Sundtuck churches, Elmore county, requested letters of dismission, which were granted.

Adopted report of committee on Obituary of Elder P. W. Spear, as follows:

OBITUARY.

DIED, at his residence on the 21st of May, 1884, Dr. Pleasant W. Spear, aged 78 years.

The deceased was one of the constituent members of the First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala. In the year 1842, at a regular conference, he was unanimously invited by that church to preach for them three Sundays in each month. He accepted a monthly appointment. In after years, having a growing family to support and educate, he embarked in the practice of medicine, graduating at the Medical College of South Carolina in 1857, and followed this profession till death took him hence.

At different times and places he preached the Gospel to the comfort and edification of Christians. During his sojourn amongst us, he maintained the character and dignity of a minister of Jesus Christ.

Resolved, That, as it has pleased God to take him from our ranks to himself, we bow in humble submission to His will, tendering our sympathies and kind wishes to the remaining relations.

B. A. JACKSON, Chairman.

REPORT ON PLACE OF MEETING.

Committee to select time and place of next meeting, recommend Adam Street Church, Montgomery, Saturday before the first Sabbath in November, 1885.

B. A. JACKSON, Chairman.

Adopted.

Committee on Nominations select to preach Introductory sermon, Elder J. J. Cloud; J. L. Sampey, alternate. Missionary sermon on Sabbath, Dr. T. M. Bailey; Elder B. A. Jackson, alternate.

It was resolved, That this Association appoint an Executive Committee of three brethren to confer or advise, when necessary, with the State Board on all matters pertaining to the work in which it is engaged.

Returned correspondence, and appointed to

State Convention—H. C. Taul, J. W. Orme, B. A Jackson, F. C. Waite, A. E. Coupee, E. J. Harris, J. L. Sampey, J. J. Cloud, M. A. Pyron, J. C. McLendon, W. G. Worrell, J. T. Boyd.

Alabama Association—B. A. Jackson, J. C. McLendon, A. E. Coupee, G. Montgomery, A. P. Wilson.

Salem—J. H. Dickson, J. C. McLendon.

Centennial Association—E. J. Harris, J. H. Dickson, B. A. Jackson.

Unity Association—J. J. Cloud, M. A. Pyron.

Auditing committee report that they examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1883.

J. H. Dickson, Treasurer of Montgomery Association.

Dr.

To E. J. Harris, Chairman F. C., vouchers	$445	80
" " " cash	154	75
	$600	55

Cr.

By G. M. Harrington, for Friendship church	$ 4	00
J. I. Lamar, Minute money	30	55
T. M. Bailey, vouchers	445	80
" State Missions	34	45
" Foreign Missions	35	95
" Home and Indian Mission	23	15
" Indigent Ministers	2	00
" Ministerial Education	6	50
" P. H. Lundy, B. C. F	10	50
" Anniston church building	7	65
Total disbursed	$600	55

J. H. DICKSON, Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Committee on Finance and Auditing, submit the following:

CHURCHES.	Minutes.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Indian Missions.	Indigent Ministers.	Ministerial Education	Evang. Col. Race	Church Building.	Total
First Montgomery, vouchers for Benev't purposes	5 00									529 66
Adam Street	5 00	223 10								228 10
Sandtuck										
Pine Level	2 50	19 88	6 80	3 72						32 90
Mt. Lebanon	2 00	20 10								22 10
Bethesda	1 50	7 15								8 65
Mt. Hebron	2 00	8 00								10 00
Union	2 00		2 00	6 00						10 00
Ramer	2 50	22 00	18 70	16 70	1 65	8 15		1 60	5 00	76 30
Salem	1 60			3 00						4 60
Wetumpka	1 50			19 00						20 50
Deatsville	2 00		7 25	5 75			2 00			17 00
Friendship										
Unity	2 00	42 35								44 35
Bethany	1 00	10 00	5 00	4 00						20 00
Liberty										
Mt. Zion	1 25		3 00	5 30						9 55
Philadelphia	1 00			3 75						4 75
Cash collections	4 05						25 00			29 05
Totals	36 90	357 90	37 25	67 17	1 65	8 15	27 00	1 60	5 00	542 02
Grand total										1067 51

E. J. HARRIS, Chairman.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to the favorable consideration and active co-operation of the sisters in the churches of this Association, the Central State Convention of women on woman's work of which Mrs. A. H. Alexander is President, Miss Mary Davis, Treasurer, Miss A. J. Dennis, Secretary, located in Montgomery, Ala.

Ordered that $25.00 of the Minute fund be appropriated for printing the minutes and the balance paid to the clerk for his services.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered Bethesda church, and also the community at large for their generous hospitality during the sessions of this body.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are tendered the Montgomery Southern Railroad for courtesies shown delegates to this meeting.

Called the roll and corrected the list of delegates.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Adam Street Church, Montgomery, Ala., Saturday before the first Sabbath in November, 1885.

Prayer by Dr. G. A. Nunallee.

H. C. TAUL, Moderator,
Montgomery, Ala.

J. I. LAMAR, Clerk,
Deatsville, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed by letter.	Deceased.	Excluded.	Number of Members.	Increase.	Decrease.	Prayer Meetings.	Sabbath Schools.	Teachers.	Pupils.	Sabbath Meetings.
1st Montgomery		W P Vanderveer	Montgomery	13	24		15	12	1	390		10	W	W	25	200	E S
Adam\$Street	H. C Taul	G. B. Burks	Montgomery	84	25	3	4		1	171	104		W	W	25	280	E S
Bethesda	J. W. Orme	W. A. Nelson	Ada				8	1		38		9	M				1
Pine Level	B. M. Bean	J. A. Frazer	Pine Level	8	7		1			92	14		W	W			4
Mt. Lebanon	B. A. Jackson	W. F. Niblett	Woodley	3			9		3	51			W				4
Ramer	B. A. Jackson	M. W. Rushton	Ramer		4	1	7	1		84		3	W	W	3	30	2
Elim										12							
Salem	J. W. Orme	A. B. Brassell	Montgomery		4	3	10	1		14			M			8	
Bethany	J. J. Cloud	J. S. Turner	Ware				3		2	36		5	W	3	30		2
Wetumpka	J. J. Cloud	C. Lull	Wetumpka	8	2	3	2			59			W	W		42	1&3
Deatsville	J. L. Thompson	J. I. Lamar	Deatsville	1	11		4	2		50	6		W	W	4	45	2&4
Mt. Hebron	J. M. Johnson	J. Hogan	Elmore							34							2
Unity	J. J. Cloud	H. F. Smith	Prattville		2					47	2		W	W	9	45	4
Friendship										17							
Liberty										15							
Mt. Zion	B. A. Jackson	F. J. Dismukes		3	1					13	4						4
Philadelphia	J. L. Sampey	G. T. Edwards		1	3					32							
Union	D. S. Martin	S. F. Thomas	Central Institute	12	13		14	2	3	100	6		W	4	35	2&4	
				133	96	10	77	19	10	1265	136	27			73	715	

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the Montgomery Baptist Association.

II. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in union.

Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every additional twenty-five members above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the delegates from any church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by churches, and in that event each church shall be entitled to three votes

III. The delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk; these officers shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen.

Should any event transpire so as to prevent an annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have the power to call a meeting at any time or place; which meeting, when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular annual meeting.

IV. This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority but what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. She nevertheless claims authority over her own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches, united under the constitution, with a vigilant eye for good Her principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and other means, in accordance with that Gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

V. Newly constituted churches dismissed from other Associations, of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up delegates to an annual meeting, with a petition, and by those delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles adopted by this Association.

VI. The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications specifyiug the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since last session, and all other information which churches may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

VII. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over, through the Committee on Finance, to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the Minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

VIII. This Association shall furnish the churches with the Miuutes of every session.

IX. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulty between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the XVIII chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

X. It shall be the duty of the clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

XI. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

XII. This constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the churches.

RULES OF ORDER,

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS, AND DECORUM IN DEBATE, IN THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to hold their offices until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3. He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak on points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association, by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide: those voting in the affirmative shall first arise from their seats, and afterwards those voting in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of election, the Moderator may vote; in other cases, he shall not vote, unless the body be equally divided; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak on any question, provided he shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking.

8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates. minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

9. The Treasurer shall receive, account tor and pay out all monies belonging to this body, according to the instructions of the Association, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

10. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities.

11. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order he shall be at liberty to proceed; if otherwise he shall not be permitted to proceed, in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

12. When two or more members happen to rise at once the Moderator shall name the one who is to speak first.

13. No member shall speak more than once to the same question, without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

14. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason, excuse him.

15. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair; or, being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator, and read aloud before debated.

16. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

17. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn, by leave of the Association, at any time before a decision or amendment.

18. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for previous question, to postpone to a day certain, commit, amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

19. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

20 A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate; and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking, or the body engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate All incidental questions of order arising after the motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate, and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any: upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question

23. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment

24. When a motion has been once made and carried, in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator; or leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission of the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. Of the True God.—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah; the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took on Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by His death; being risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. Of Justification.—That the great Gospel blessing, which Christ of His fulness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; and justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sacrifices and saves sinners; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. Of the Preseverance of Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial profession, that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers

are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XII. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer, in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our *faith* in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power; and that it is a prerequisite to the relatives of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XIII Of the Christian Sabbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. Of Civil Government. That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XV. Of the Righteous and the Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.